

## **Going-to-the-Sun Road Advisory Committee Recommendations**

**9/25/00**

Recommendations during the 1:30pm to 3:15pm session:

1. **How will the committee make recommendations to the Park Service?** It was decided recommendations will be made by consensus whenever possible. If consensus can't be achieved then a vote with a majority of 2/3rds will be used.
2. **When (days of week) should committee meetings be held?** The consensus was to start at the beginning of the week or adjourn at the end of the week, with evening sessions to be considered.

Recommendations during the 3:30pm to 5:00pm session:

None

**9/26/00**

Recommendations during the 8:00 am – 10:15 am session:

None

Recommendations during the 10:30 am – 12:30 pm session:

1. **Recommendations on the range of traffic management options to be considered in the engineering alternatives?**

Consensus was reached in consideration of the following:

- Delays of 15 minutes per construction site (½ hour maximum delay per trip across the GTSR or a trip to the pass and return same way). Two hour closure Tues, Wed, Thurs between 8 and 10 pm.
- One hour delay (up to four 15 minutes each stop) for trip across the GTSR or a trip to Logan Pass and return the same way.
- Restricted access preferred over delays in excess of 15 minutes
- Have the contractor consider the benefits of One-way traffic (full day minimum).
- Night restriction.
- Seasonal restriction of road access.
- Managed transit. Opportunity for visitor experience may be used for a construction alternative.
- Restrict One Side (closure of a portion of the road until reconstruction is complete on that portion base-line only)
- Closure (base-line data only)

- Routine one-day closure a week.
- Pedestrian/bicycle/motorcycle traffic/alternative transportation to cars.
- Consistency

**2. What factors do you feel are important in evaluating the alternatives (be specific)?**

Consensus was reached on the recommendations below:

- Visitor Experience
  - Delays
  - Education/Entertainment
  - Impacts
  - Length of stay and use
  - Efficient savings short terms
  - Contractor with experience
  - Visitor and worker safety
  - Opportunities to see GTSR
- New offering of services
- Cost of construction
- Impact Mitigation
- Future maintenance and funding
- Weather averages
- Economic impacts
- Time to complete construction

Recommendations during the 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm session:

**3. If you had two \$50,000 pots of money; one was for short-term engineering needs and the other was for the socioeconomic purpose of stimulating local and regional growth; how would you spend these?**

**Engineering**

- Life threatening factors
- Drainage
- Proper maintenance
- Reprioritize other resources
- Public relations strategy that focuses visitors on other park opportunities

**Socioeconomic**

- Travel Mt and Glacier Country visitor surveys re: Glacier National Park.
- Seminars to inform and stimulate innovation by what has been done in other parks with same problem/opportunity
- Improve business opportunities for Blackfeet and S/K tribes
- Leverage (matching funds)

#### **4. How do you define “world class visitor experience”?**

- Authenticity/uniqueness
- No plastic ears
- Legendary customer service
- Historical integrity
- World Heritage Site (International visitor)
- Predictability/Consistency
- Services provided by surrounding businesses
- Visitor Experience

Will Brooke made a motion for the committee to actively seek funding for the EIS and public participation in the NEPA process. The motion was seconded by Bill Dakin. Letters will be sent to congressional delegations, Director of the NPS, NPS Intermountain Regional Director, and the appropriate congressional committees. Unanimously approved.

The Committee was expecting at this meeting more input from MK on conceptual engineering alternatives and findings and recommendations on condition assessment. The park service replied that contracting put us behind schedule and thought it would be helpful to view the road and conduct the meeting to receive input before conceptual engineering alternatives are developed.

The park service will provide monthly project status reports to committee members to keep the committee better informed as to progress to date.

Consensus was reached on the Public Review process of “Technical Report” as described below:

- April
- Letter from committee & Superintendent
- Media
- Web Site/Summary
- Open Houses
- Meet with Tribal Councils, SHPO, Delegation, USFWS, Special Interest Groups
- Analyze Comments

Recommendations during the 2:30 pm – 5:15 pm session:

Subcommittees will comment to the NPS on the April 2001 draft report. The report will be distributed during the week of April 6 or earlier if available. Comments do NPS by the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The NPS will identify if they need comments on the reports.

The subcommittees will communicate among themselves by email with a copy to Randy Ogle and Dayna Hudson, for the administrative record. The subcommittees can also ask questions directly to MK. The park service will provide monthly status reports on what the subcommittees, MK, and the park service have communicated and achieved.

The next meeting will be held at East Glacier Park Lodge and begin at 8 am on May 31 with a possible evening session (with a public comment period) and conclude by noon on June 1.

Lowell Mezmarich made a motion that conceptual alternatives from MK be made available to the public at the same time they are distributed to the NPS and the Advisory Committee. Paul Sliter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee asks that the agenda be sent to committee members in advance of the May 31 meeting so that comments can be forwarded to the NPS before the meeting. Following the meeting, the Advisory Committee will forward their recommendations.

The committee requests that the NPS provide a timetable for the Transportation Plan.

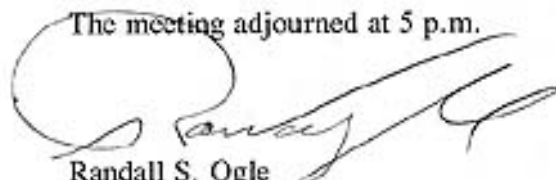
The park service will provide the committee with the current contract with MK.

Will Brooke made a motion to recommend that MK and the NPS utilize the appropriate data base to distribute a survey to those who have not traveled to Glacier National Park asking questions similar to the questions asked in the first socioeconomic survey. Seconded by Paul Sliter. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Sliter made a motion, seconded by Lowell Mezmarich, to recommend that the NPS get a legal opinion, regarding the Agreement of 1888 and 1896 on preference hiring of Native Americans to be handled on this job. Also request Mr. Kipps' testimony be attached to the recommendation for the opinion. Lowell Mezmarich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The engineering subcommittee will pursue the question of whether we will recommend rehabilitation of the GTSR to rehabilitation or restoration standards.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.



Randall S. Ogle  
Chairman